

THE POLITICAL HOROSCOPE

Throughout the length and breadth of the country the Negroes are up in arms against the Pritchard movement in North Carolina and the South. No action since the enfranchisement of the race has so thoroughly aroused their indignation as the contemptuous repudiation of our party membership as the denial of admission of Negro delegates in the State conventions in North Carolina and Alabama. Newspapers, heretofore enthusiastic in approving any policy that the Republicans might adopt along general lines,



GENERAL ROBERT SMALLS.

are out in red-hot editorials, bitterly denouncing not only the men at the head of the lily-white movement in the South, but scoring their Republican allies in the North for their failure to speak out against this studied insult to the most faithful allies they ever had. Not even in the palmy days of Negro independence, when Grover Cleveland sat in the White House and C. H. J. Taylor was the Moses of the colored Jeffersonians, was there a parallel for the drift toward a judicious division of the colored vote. It is regarded as essential to the salvation of the few political opportunities left to the race.

Just read this indication of the trend of the times—remarkable in that it is a notice that the Negro feels it advisable to make friends with his former enemies, as a measure of protection:

There is said to be a movement among certain colored men in Charleston, S. C., to get into the Democratic party. Up to the present time the movement has not gone beyond the circulation of a paper among leading Democratic politicians asking them to agree to the admission of Negroes. It is also said that the movement is inaugurated by the colored men of intelligence and property who are anxious to rebuke the Republicans for abandoning them.

And so the story goes.

The Negroes of the Sixth Maryland District appear to be in earnest in their revolt against Representative George A. Pearre, the sitting member. They have nominated for Congress a colored man, Rev. Henry Newman, said to be a speaker of convincing eloquence. Pearre is accused of dereliction in the matter of aiding the patronage of the district with the colored voters, and the independent element are determined to administer a rebuke by repudiating him at the polls. In an interview, Pearre claims that the movement is engineered by politicians from Washington, and is inspired by the Democrats, who are paying the malcontents to create trouble. He states that he is not worried by the defection, and that he will be elected. Rev. Newman is making an energetic canvass, and announces the following platform, which, though radical, he thinks is in accord with the feelings of the colored people of his bailiwick. The platform demands:

"A pension for every ex-slave; prop-

er treatment of the colored voter; division of the State and Federal offices with colored men and women; repeal of the civil service; reform of the tariff; abolition of trusts; suppression of lynching and the upholding of the manhood and womanhood of the colored race."

This may be asking more than is likely to be granted, even were the district carried unanimously, but the revolt indicates the growing independence of the Negro voter in States where his ballot is potent.

Speaker David B. Henderson has produced the political sensation of the times. He has written a letter declining a renomination to Congress because he feels that in his opposition to a general tariff revision as a remedy for trusts, he is not in accord with the platform adopted by the Republicans at the Iowa State convention, and hence he cannot consistently go before his neighbors and friends as a candidate for representative. Mr. Henderson says he favors a modification of certain schedules when revision is necessary and expedient. He does not believe the Dingley law should be disturbed, nevertheless, as any considerable alteration would be a step toward free trade. As a matter of fact, this old "free trade" bugaboo has long since



BANKER ISAAC H. SMITH.

outlived its usefulness, and the people are not deceived by it any longer. There is a decided movement toward a judicious pruning of our altitudinous tariff, and that, too, on protective lines. Industries that are no longer "infant" should take their chances in the open market, and the people should be relieved of the exorbitant tax that permits the enormous profits of the trusts, without benefiting the working people in the slightest degree. A country is not made rich by taxing itself beyond the legitimate demands of the government for revenue, with such incidental protection as may be essential to the development of an industry that will redound to the advantage of all. The people are determined to take action in this matter, let the Republican leaders do and say as they will. Speaker Henderson's hasty and ill-advised declination is the opening gun of an agitation that is apt to cause serious unrest that could have been avoided by a promise of reasonable reduction of the duties on certain corporation-made goods, at the same time preserving intact the principle of protection.

Col. W. A. Pledger is out in a circular urging that the Republicans of Georgia place a State ticket in the field, and that in the congressional districts candidates be put up and voted for, and if the representative should be unjustly counted out, that a contest be carried to Washington and Northern members be asked to seat the contestant. Of course, the colonel is right in his contention. An honest fight should be made, even if the race be a forlorn hope. The Democrats in the North run a ticket when there is no expectation of winning, for the purpose

of holding the organization together, and taking advantage of possible mistakes of the opposition or a revulsion of popular sentiment which may elect by a tidal wave. If Southern Republicans have an appetite for office, they should understand that it can be satisfied only by a determined effort to establish Republican principles in "the enemy's country."

Senator Money, generally considered a Bourbon Democrat, who hails from Mississippi, makes an admirable retort to the charge made in some quarters that the Negro delegates from the South to the Republican conventions is purchasable, and that the elimination of the race from politics will institute a reform and promote an organization of white men that will give character and influence to the party. He says, and truthfully, too, that the white men of Mississippi who enter the Republican party do it from sinister motives, and that they can be purchased as easily as delegates of any other color who wish to make all they can for themselves. He has no faith in the new movement, and does not think that the elimination of the Negro will do anything except increase the Democratic majorities by alienating the few Negroes who are qualified to vote.

A committee of colored Virginians will visit President Roosevelt and lay before him a vigorous complaint against the unfavorable attitude of the white Republican managers. No instructions are being given them as to how to register, and the committee is instructed to present the exact status of Virginia politics to Mr. Roosevelt.

If the Republican magnates are not in sympathy with the Southern policy pursued by Senator Pritchard they are at least giving him the aid and comfort of their silence.

Our Kentucky friends are faring pretty well at the pie counter. Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, New York and Kansas should "smoke up" and "get into the game."

An organization has been formed with a view of defeating Sydney E. Mudd in the Fifth District of Maryland. It grows out of the refusal of Mudd to support the Olmstead, the Crumpacker and the Irwin bills at the last session of Congress. James W. Poe is chairman of the insurgents with headquarters at 408 S. Capitol streets, this city.

The colored voters are organizing to assist in the election of Col. Addicks to the United States Senate from the State of Delaware. Col. Addicks has honestly won the recognition by valuable service to the party.

It is a pointer for ambitious Southern statesmen who seek to rise upon the corpse of the Negro civil and political liberty that Congressman Talbert, who ran for governor of South Carolina on a platform opposed to schools for Negroes, was overwhelmingly defeated. As we said a few weeks ago, anent the attitude of the Macon News along the same illogical lines, "Why attempt the impossible?" The South, black and white, needs all the education it can get, and the taxes should be utilized to the utmost in lifting the pall of ignorance and intolerance.

Isaac H. Smith has dipped his pen in "indelible sky-blue ink" and concluded that Senator Pritchard has done a wise thing in forming a white man's Republican party in North Carolina and the South, as it will lead to a black man's Republican party which will eventually rise to a position of power that we little dream of to-day. He thinks the white Republicans are now honest, and have done openly what they have secretly wished to do for thirty-five years. Let us hear from you further, Col. Smith, but cut out some of that rhetoric you used in the last number of the Star of Zion.

Col. John C. Leftwich has become the political leader in the territory of Oklahoma by his pluck, push and persistence along right lines. He has

Continued on seventh page.

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